Appln. No.: Amdt. dated: Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

The present application has been amended to correct the cross-reference to related

application. Claims 1-12 are pending in the applications. Claims 3-12 have been amended. No

new matter has been entered. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due

under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit

any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 50-2140. TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS

SHEET ARE ENCLOSED

Respectfully submitted,

United States Surgical, a division of TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP 150 Glover Avenue Norwalk, CT 06856

(203) 845-4562

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